

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~producing~~ propagating a transformed plant, comprising:
 - (a) providing a plant material that is transformed with a heterologous DNA encoding DREB1A protein, wherein said DNA is under the control of a rd29A promoter;
 - (b) obtaining a scion from a mother plant produced from said plant material; and
 - (c) ~~producing~~ propagating a plant from said scion, such that said plant has a characteristic selected from (i) ~~improved propagation efficiency~~ of scions, (ii) improved propagation efficiency ~~and rooting efficiency~~ of scions, and (iii) ~~(ii)~~ improved propagation efficiency of scions and prolonged vase life of cut flowers, relative to a plant that is not transformed with said DNA, wherein each of (i) and (ii) is by way of improved rooting efficiency of scions for rooting.
- 2.-3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) The method of producing a transformed plant of claim 1, wherein the DNA is selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a DNA consisting of the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1; and
 - (b) a DNA encoding a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2.
- 5.-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the DNA is transformed into the plant by using a vector selected from the group consisting of a virus, a Ti plasmid of Agrobacterium and an Ri plasmid of Agrobacterium.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the DNA is transformed into the plant by electroporation, polyethylene glycol-mediated transformation, particle gun transformation, microinjection, silicon nitride whisker-mediated transformation, or silicon carbide whisker-mediated transformation.